

RADIOACTIVE MAN

by

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A motion picture company announces it's going to make a film of an updated 90s version of Radioactive Man, which creates a minor sensation in Bart's class.

There's some discussion on what the plot might be and how the character might be updated to be more 90s.

It's been announced that the movie will be filmed in Springfield, which causes a major sensation and it's so obviously great for the economy that Quimby has a heart attack.

They announce that they'll hold open auditions to find a boy to play Fallout Boy in the picture, which creates the biggest sensation of all.

Every kid in Bart's class is frantically trying to prepare for this audition. The Radioactive Man and Fallout Boy comic books are going for four times the price, kids are buying them for dialog. All the kids are walking around speaking in comic book-style, stilted dialogue.

We see Bart studying harder than the others. Marge suggests that if he worked this hard in his normal studies it would be to his advantage. Bart feels this is an interesting theory.

The movie company comes to town and starts setting up. They're having a tough time. All of Bart's friends are hanging around trying to get a glimpse of anything.

The first day of auditions we see a number of our characters try out and they're much, much worse than we would expect. Many of them freeze immediately and have to be carried off. Bart turns very confident that this is the sort of thing he'd get. He's memorized everything Fallout Boy has ever said. Before he can open his mouth...

DIRECTOR

You're a half-inch too short. Next.

Bart refuses to give up. He keeps coming back with his height augmented in various ways, wearing clothes with vertical stripes, elevator shoes. Next morning he finds that since the audition started, he's actually grown a half an inch.

He races to the audition to tell them the good news just in time to see Milhouse get the part. He's the right size and has the effeminate quality that they're looking for in this updated version.

So Milhouse instantly becomes a big celebrity around school. All the kids want to meet him even though they know him.

Skinner's a big fan for some reason, and tries to get an autograph. Milhouse finally has to ask Skinner's mother to get him to leave him alone.

Even though the movie hasn't started filming yet, the city is so excited about it that Milhouse becomes somewhat of a celebrity. The gossip columns talk about him a little bit and Milhouse finds himself standing uncomfortably in the Springfield equivalent of Spago. Doesn't really know what to say.

Bart goes over to Milhouse's house. McBain is already there playing trains with Milhouse. Bart's incredibly jealous of all this, but knows it can't last. He knows something the world doesn't know, that Milhouse is terrible. He's the worst actor who ever lived.

So the shooting starts and Milhouse is in fact terrible. His producers are ecstatic. His awkwardness and inability to say a coherent sentence is what's lacking in Hollywood. They figure Milhouse will be big. Gabby Hayes big.

Even though it makes Bart feel like a heel to do it, he realizes he really has to sabotage Milhouse's career. So he starts coming up with several plans to do that but they all fail because Milhouse is never where he's supposed to be.

He's changes his whole routine around, trying to get some privacy. Milhouse is becoming Garbo-esq. He hates all the attention so he's walking around wearing a big hat. Collar turned up, which makes the curious mob even more curious.

Bart's still trying to figure out some way to sabotage Milhouse's career when he finds himself sitting next to a stranger that turns out to be Milhouse. Milhouse is a wreck and begs Bart to somehow get him out of his career, he doesn't like it. So Bart does a 180.

BART

This is gonna be great.

He feels like his troubles are over. He'll be his new manager.

ACT III

Bart goes to the producers, and on behalf of his client, demands all kinds of perks: a star wagon even though Milhouse only lives two blocks away; a team of gag men to write witty things for Milhouse to say at Spago's; and a Milhouse look-alike to handle all his public appearances. The producers agree to all this. Milhouse is indeed the picture now.

So Milhouse is a little less miserable, but Bart forgets Milhouse. He enjoys having the power he seems to have.

Bart gets a job for Homer, Marge, Lisa, and Maggie. He hands out bit parts in the movie to kids in the school.

They get to ride motorcycles or get blown up with dynamite. Bart insists on progressively larger rewrites in the script. He tells the producers Milhouse isn't happy playing second fiddle to a paddy wagon like the updated version of Radioactive Man.

Bart wants the script to be rewritten to make Radioactive Man more one dimensional, brutal, and uninteresting than he was in the 50s.

The producers are whining about production delays and escalating costs. So they fire the guy from the comic workshop who's been doing the rewrite, bring in the original creator of the Radioactive Man Comic, now over 80 and suffering from Radioactive Poisoning. He begins hammering out a script.

Meanwhile, Milhouse still isn't terribly happy but things are going along okay. The producers are at the end of the line. Bart makes the last demand that Radioactive Man be written out of the movie, so it'll be more screen time for Milhouse, and he also insists that Milhouse's name be larger and appear above the name in the theater.

Next day when Bart and Milhouse go to the studio it's empty, the company's abandoned the project and gone back to Hollywood to make Dog Catcher. Everyone that Bart put on payroll is off payroll. The only person who isn't pissed at Bart is Milhouse. He's very thankful to be anonymous again.

We can show a game show in the future where the correct answer is Milhouse. No one gets it. Milhouse is a contestant.

We have to keep it as far away from "Bart Gets Famous" as we can. A lot of things aren't the same.

What could really be interesting is this kid doesn't really want to do it. He's the right type, but doesn't really want to be in show business.

You could have a beat in the story something like Moe was one of the Little Rascals. Moe's name was "Smelly."

Maybe there's a big action sequence in Springfield Gorge or something.

They've been shooting nuclear plants and they found an abandoned plant with a big sound stage. Maybe Burns could be involved there.

Shoot it there because it's cheap. People don't know union rules. They negotiate a deal where they do it for free.

Show how local businesses capitalize. Can shut down a lot of streets. Homer's commute is three hours long. Otto wants to be a Teamster.

Can we film at your house? Ripping out walls, etc.

Rent Simpsons house for a day.

CHARACTER

What are you living in this dump for?

Marge is cleaning forever to get it perfect. They think it's a real sweet deal but they wind up doing more damage. Offers from other producers. "The House On Haunted Hill." A bordello.

CHARACTER

Those colors... unbelievable. You let

'em do that?

It looks a little like Bart is too much of an asshole. Like he's ruining Milhouse. Maybe Milhouse comes to Bart.

MILHOUSE

My life's miserable.

He has a Lionel Hutz'-type agent who doesn't get it. He employs Bart.

MILHOUSE

Bart, you understand me. You know what
I want.

Milhouse's mother could say to him.

MOTHER

If you're disappointed, if you can't do
something, pick yourself up, there's
something else you can do.

That kind of pep talk his parents give him. If he becomes like Macaulay Culkin's father... And he gets to realize his power... Well, he's not coming out of his trailer right now. He gets to see this whole thing start to knuckle under him. It's too much power for a kid to have. They go through extraordinary humiliation. Milhouse's dad could be like Macauley's dad.

Can be cocky about it too because they've already built mockups of Milhouse that are supposed to explode.

It starts with him just being a kid. Then, he's pumped up by the power they give him and it's an odd moment.

Could be funny if Milhouse is on the cover of Tiger Beat Magazine, Springfield's teen magazine. Milhouse with his shirt off.

Probably the feel of it will be the town. The film comes to the town. Milhouse's story will run through it. Can probably create other stories for other people.

The Bart thing is "stop me before I hurt someone." With everything they start to give him it gets very odd and weird.

To get permits to film on the street they have to romance the DMV, which is Patty and Selma. They control all the permits. They get a part in the movie. Everybody's negotiating. They're Radioactive Man's love interest or something.